

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4502

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 5504

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GE

SUBJECT: COMMEMORATION OF 20 TH ANNIVERSARY OF EAST
GERMAN UPRISING

1. AT APRIL 10 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG FONOFF REP
(BRAEUTIGAM) RAISED MATTER OF COMMEMORATION OF 20 TH
ANNIVERSARY OF EAST GERMAN UPRISING ON JUNE 17. HE
SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND ESPECIALLY THE FONOFF,
WAS COMING UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE OPPOSITION AND FROM
CERTAIN NON- OFFICIAL ORGANIZATIONS (E. G., THE
KURATORIUM ON INDIVISIBLE GERMANY) TO HOLD A LARGE
COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY IN WEST BERLIN. IT HAS BEEN
SUGGESTED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SPONSOR SUCH AN
EVENT, HOLD IT IN THE REICHSTAG, HAVE INVITATIONS
ISSUED BY THE BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT, AND INCLUDE AMONG
THE INVITEES MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND EVEN
PRESIDENT HEINEMANN.

2. BRAEUTIGAM SAID THE FONOFF WAS OF THE VIEW THAT,
WHILE THE PRESURES FOR SUCH A " SPECTACULAR AFFAIR"
WERE UNDERSTANDABLE IN LIGHT OF THE NATURE OF THE
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OCCASION, IT MIGHT SIMPLY CREATE SERIOUS POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS WITH THE USSR AND GDR, PARTICULARLY ON THE QUESTION OF THE DEVELOPING OF FRG- WEST BERLIN TIES. THE FONOFF WAS THEREFORE TENDING TO THE VIEW THAT, ON PRACTICAL GROUNDS, IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO CONTINUE THE PRACTICE OF RECENT YEARS AND HAVE THE JUNE 17 EVENT COMMEMORATED BY AN EVENT IN BONN, E. G. A SPEECH AT A GATHERING OF INTERESTED OFFICIALS AND PERSONS AT THE BUNDESTAG. THIS WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, EXCLUDE SMALLER AFFAIRS IN WEST BERLIN. BRAEUTIGAM SAID THE FONOFF WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING THE THREE ALLIES' VIEWS ON THIS MATTER AND ON THE FONOFF THINKING ON IT

3. ALLIED REPS SAID THEY FOUND FONOFF APPROACH REASONABLE BUT THAT THEY WOULD SEEK THEIR CAPITALS' VIEWS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF MATTER AT EARLY DATE.

4. COMMENT: WE CONSIDER THAT THE FRG PROPOSAL TO HAVE SUCH A SPECTACULAR AFFAIR IN WEST BERLIN MIGHT WELL PRESENT THE SOVIETS WITH GOOD GROUNDS TO ATTACK THE ALLIES AND THE FRG FOR VIOLATING THE SPIRIT IF NOT THE LETTER OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. WE CAN SEE SEVERAL AREAS OF THE AGREEMENT THE SOVIETS COULD EMPLOY TO THAT END. WE SEE NO GOOD PURPOSE TO BE SERVED BY CREATING A SITUATION IN WHICH ONLY COMPLICATIONS AND NO REAL BENEFITS RESULT, AND HENCE FAVOR SUPPORTING THE NEGATIVE FONOFF VIEW OF THE PROPOSED AFFAIR IN WEST BERLIN.

5. IF THE DEPT AGREES WITH THIS VIEW, AND IT IS SHARED BY UK AND FRENCH, WE WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL IN PRESENTING IT TO FONOFF. LATTER IS PROBABLY INTERESTED IN PUSHING AS MUCH OF THE BURDEN FOR OPPOSING THE WEST BERLIN AFFAIR ON TO THE ALLIES AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO HAVE FONOFF TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DECISION, PERHAPS INDICATING ONLY (IF NECESSARY) THAT THEY HAD CONSULTED IT WITH THE ALLIES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT AND USBER' S COMMENTS.
HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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